GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4966
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
TELECASTING OF NEWS TO PRIVATE COMPANIES
HANNAN MOLLAH;SAMIK LAHIRI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allotted Government run channels like DD-7 to private News Agencies to telecast news;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prescribed any norms for such private agencies against misusing the media by propagating views instead of telecasting objective news;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that such agencies are telecasting magazine instead of bulletin; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to stop such misuse of public broadcasting system by private agencies and prescribe strict norms?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d): Prasar Bharati has informed that news is invariably produced in-house by Doordarshan. However, news based current affairs programmes are produced by Doordarshan as well as by private producers. A list of such programmes produced by private producers is annexed. All such programmes are governed by Doordarshan`s Programme Code with a view to ensure that views expressed in these are balanced, fair, objective and impartial. There is also interaction, wherever necessary, of Doordarshan officials with the private producers to facilitate compliance of the norms governing news and current affairs programmes.

(e) Private agencies have not been engaged to telecast news bulletins, but news based current affairs programmes, which are in magazine format.

(f) Does not arise, in view of (e) above